

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

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R 151340Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4479

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T SANAA 2173

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJECT: MINSTATE SA'ID COMMENTS ON INTERNAL SITUATION

REF: SANAA 2153

1. MINSTATE FOR SERVICES AHMAD SA'ID STOPPED BY MY HOUSE EVENING OCT 14 ON WAY BACK TO TAIZ FROM WHICH HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED TWO DAYS EARLIER TO PARTICIPATE AS HAMDI SUPPORTER IN DISCUSSIONS ON FORMATION NEW CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. HE IS CONVINCED THAT SITUATION IS NOW CALM AND THAT COMMAND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN HAMDI IS IN FULL CONTROL WITH ABU LUHUM ELEMENT IN DISARRAY. ACCORDINGLY HE FEELS FREE TO LEAVE.

2. ACCORDING TO SA'ID OCT 31 HAS NOW BEEN FIXED AS DATE FOR RECONVENING CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY. SA'ID IS RETURNING TO TAIZ TO LINE UP SHAFI' VOTE IS TAIZ-IBB SOUTHERN AREA, EASTERN MA'RIB REGION, AND TIHAMA COASTAL PLAIN BEHIND HAMDI. SA'ID EXPECTS TO OBO ZYGLWART#OF AT LEAST FORTY OF SIXTY-

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ODD DEPUTIES. HAMDI HIMSELF IS PLANNING TO REPLACE WITH

HIS SUPPORTERS MANY OF 35 OF 149 DEPUTIES IN ASSEMBLY WHO ARE PRESIDENTIALLY-APPOINTED. THESE TWO GROUPS TOGETHER WITH DEPUTIES FROM NORTH CONTROLLED BY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SHAIKH ABDALLAH AL-AHMAR ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE HAMDI CONFORTABLE MAJORITY. ASSEMBLY WILL APPROVE NEW CABINET AND CONFIRM NEW REPUBLICAN COUNCIL WITH HAMDI AT HEAD OR CONTROLLING BEHIND SCENES.

3. SA'ID CONFIRMED THAT THERE GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT PRIMIN AL-AYNI MIGHT STAND DOWN RATHER THAN TRY TO FORM NEW CIVILIAN CABINET SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF ASSEMBLY DOMINATED BY HAMDI AND AL-AHMAR. ALTHOUGH HAMDI MAY WANT TO KEEP HIM TO PRESERVE GOVERNMENT'S REFORMIST IMAGE, IT POSSIBLE AL-AYNI MAY NOT ACCEPT POSITION IN WHICH HE FEELS HIMSELF UNABLE TO MANEUVER POLITICALLY.

4. SA'ID HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN HAMDI'S ABILITY TO ACT DECISIVELY AGAINST OPPONENTS. IN DISPUTE WITH ABU LUMUM REPORTED REFTTEL, HAMDI HAD BLOCKED AL-AYNI'S CANDIDACY BY THREATENING TO BRING BACK RIGHTIST FORMER PRIMIN HASAN AQAAMARI FROM CAIRO. AMRI

IS TOUGH RUTHLESS OPPONENT OF AL-AYNI AND ABU LUHUMS. SA'ID ALSO SAID THAT HAMDI HAD REJECTED OUT OF HAND PRIMIN'S REQUEST TO RESHUFFLE CABINET (TO ELIMINATE SA'ID, MINCOMMO ASNAG, MINSTATE DR IRYANI, AND MININFO DAHMASH), COMMENTING SARCASTICALLY THAT PRIMIN HAD ALREADY PACKED CABINET WITH ENOUGH BAATHIS.

5. COMMENT: SA'ID REMARKS SHOULD BE VIEWED IN LIGHT HIS STRONG SUPPORT FOR HAMDI AND HIS BITTER HATRED OF PRIMIN. NEVERTHELESS HIS INFORMATION IS SOLID. WHAT EMERGES FROM HIS COMMENTS IS IMAGE OF HAMDI BLOCKING AL-AYNI AND ABU LUHUMS AT EVERY TURN, AVOIDING VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WHILE CAREFULLY WALLING THEM IN WITH LOOSE ALLIANCE OF THEIR OPPONENTS WHO DESPITE THEIR OWN DIFFERENCES ARE UNITED IN OPPOSITION TO AYNi-ABU LUHUM FACTION.
NEWTON

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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